

PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN

This is professional veterinarian work involving the control and/or prevention of infectious diseases in animals which are transmissible to man and the utilization of animals as indicators of human health problems through the conduct of epidemiological studies.

Employees plan and develop programs of veterinary public health designed to eradicate and control those infectious diseases of animal origin that are transmissible to man such as rabies. Employees work cooperatively with local health departments, county commissioners, federal agencies and other State agencies in the establishment and implementation of programs in veterinary public health directed toward the control and prevention of these diseases. Employees conduct epidemiological studies to evaluate environmental hazards upon animals as possible indicators of potential health problems in humans for the purpose of eliminating those hazards. Work is performed under the general supervision of a higher level administrator and may include other duties as assigned.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Variety and Scope - Work is generally assigned within the area of zoonotic disease control, conduct of field research and epidemiology studies and preventive medicine and disease control for the Laboratory Animal Farm, Laboratory Section. Within these areas, employees perform a wide range of functions frame program planning, implementation and monitoring for zoonotic disease control to study planning, analysis and report writing for epidemiological studies.

Intricacy - Work involves the selection and use of various sampling techniques and data gathering methods; the application of the latest techniques for the control and prevention of zoonotic diseases; providing consultation in the broad area of veterinary public health, environmental sanitation and rural health. Work includes assignments representative of all phases of the study process including problem identification, planning, organizing, scheduling, conducting, analyzing and documentation of results.

Subject Matter Complexity - Work requires the practical application of veterinarian and epidemiological principles to research studies involving all phases of zoonotic disease control and conduct of epidemiological studies. Employees must also be knowledgeable of management practices for the Laboratory Animal Farm.

Guidelines - Employees apply divisional policies and procedures and scientific standards for infectious disease. As employees work with the more unique or complex assignments guidelines or precedents are often sketchy or non-existent.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Nature of Instructions - Employees receive general instructions on project objectives and timeframes when they are critical. Technical detailed instructions are provided with special projects or assignments.

Nature of Review - Work is technically reviewed periodically through discussions of progress and reviews of technical reports for reasonableness and the correct selection of techniques.

Scope of Decisions - Decisions made by this employee could affect the population in general by reducing the risk of infectious diseases spreading.

Consequence of Decisions - Errors in the collection and analysis of data could result in incorrect study conclusions. These, in turn, could affect the development of management strategies relative to the control of zoonotic diseases that could endanger the general public.

III. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Scope of Contacts - work requires contacts with other divisional and departmental staffs representatives of other State and Federal agencies, county boards of health and commissioners as well as private physicians and veterinarians.

Nature and Purpose - The primary nature of contacts is to gather and discuss information. Contacts with public and private groups are usually to explain testing procedures being utilized in epidemiological studies and to provide information relative to zoonotic disease control.

IV. OTHER WORK DEMANDS:

Work Conditions - While most work is accomplished in an office setting, occasional field surveys may expose employees to various chemicals, dust, fumes and odors.

Hazards - While performing fieldwork, employees may be exposed to animals and humans with infectious diseases.

V. RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities - Considerable knowledge of the principles and practices of veterinary medicine as applied to the field of public health. Considerable knowledge of the principles and techniques of animal pathology and of bacteriology. Ability to conduct epidemiological surveys, prepare technical reports and make recommendations for programs for prevention. Ability to handle with tact, consistency and sound judgements the diversity of public contacts demanded in consultative services. Ability to communicate effectively in oral and written form.

Minimum Education and Experience - Licensed or eligible for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in the state of North Carolina and a master's degree in public health administration or epidemiology from an appropriately accredited institution; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.